## HOUSE BILL 2434 By Whitson

AN ACT to designate U.S. Highway 11E in Greene County as the "Pvt. Calvin J. Ward Memorial Highway"..

WHEREAS, since the birth of our great nation, hundreds of thousands of brave

American men and women have served their country in the armed forces defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, no other Tennessean in the history of the Volunteer state has exemplified greater valor or served with greater distinction than the late Private Calvin C. Ward of western Greene County, who fought bravely during World War I, and who was honored with more military decorations than even the legendary Sgt. Alvin York; and

WHEREAS, during World War I combat, Private Ward and another soldier captured a German machine gun nest, killed three German soldiers and took seven prisoners; and

WHEREAS, for his courageous military service, Calvin Ward was awarded six American medals, including the prestigious Medal of Honor, which was awarded personally by General John J. Pershing, supreme commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts; and

WHEREAS, he also received six foreign military honors, including the prized French

Croix di Guerre, with Palm; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this gallant soldier should be posthumously recognized for his exemplary service to his beloved Tennessee and to his country; now, therefore,

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## BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, that segment of U.S. Highway 11E within Greene County, from the Cocke County-Greene County boundary to the Washington County-Greene County boundary, is hereby designated as the "Pvt. Calvin J. Ward Memorial Highway" in honor of this intrepid and valiant soldier, who through his courageous accomplishments on the battlefield during World War I, fought to preserve the blessed freedoms we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating U.S. Highway 11E in Greene County as the "Pvt. Calvin J. Ward Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.